

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 12, 2016

His Excellency Reuven Rivlin  
President of the State of Israel  
The Office of the President of Israel  
3 HaNasi Street  
Komemiut Neighborhood (Talbiyeh)  
Jerusalem 92188  
Israel

Dear President Rivlin,

Today, we congratulate you and the people of Israel on the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your Independence. Since 1948, the State of Israel has shined as an innovative, robust, and vibrant democracy, and we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Israel and her people in the Middle East and international community. On this happy occasion, we are also proud to reaffirm the unbreakable bond between our two great nations.

Since its inception, Israel has overcome considerable threats and challenges, and as we celebrate its independence, we also remember those who have fallen in defense of the Jewish homeland. Today, Israel continues to face significant threats from state and non-state actors, as well as insidious efforts to undermine its international legitimacy. Despite these obstacles, Israel has exemplified courage and hope in a turbulent region by advancing democratic values and global justice.

On this Independence Day, we honor Israel's legacy of freedom and resilience and recommit ourselves to strengthening the mutually beneficial relationship between our nations, which is based on shared values and security. We proudly celebrate the freedoms that Israel stands for and congratulate you on this day.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Caucus

  
TRENT FRANKS  
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Caucus

DOUG LAMBORN  
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Caucus

  
BRAD SHERMAN  
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Caucus